

INTERNATIONAL YEAR OF ARTISANAL FISHERIES AND AQUACULTURE (IYFA 2022)

By the IYFA Task Force

The slogan of the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYFA 2022) – small in scale, big in value – is a recognition and appreciation of the millions of small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers who provide healthy and nutritious food to billions of people globally. This article outlines the background and history of the Year, provides information and links to communication materials, and describes how you and your organisations can engage in this global initiative to give small-scale fish producers the global acknowledgment they deserve.



IYFA2022 website:
www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022

E-mail: iyafa@fao.org

#IYFA2022

#ArtisanalFisheriesAquaculture

The United Nations General Assembly declared 2022 the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture (IYFA 2022),¹ with FAO acting as the lead agency working closely with partners, organisations and relevant United Nations bodies. Celebrating the Year in 2022 follows a trend of highlighting that fisheries and aquaculture is about people as much as it is about fish. Its objective is to focus world attention on the role that small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers play, thereby increasing global understanding and action to support them.

A key step is to enter the celebration of the Year into all national calendars and action plans across the globe to ensure that governments and relevant organisations alike start planning and getting creative on how to give small-scale fish producers the global acknowledgment they deserve.

IYFA 2022 is here!

Plans have commenced for celebrating IYFA 2022 with the establishment of a Task Force in FAO, the formation of an International Steering Committee, the development of a new

website, and the launch of a visual identity.² The International Steering Committee consists of members from the seven FAO regions, as well as non-state actors in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and representatives from the International Fund for Agricultural Development and the United Nations Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. The Committee provides overall guidance and assistance in the preparations and implementation of the Year and facilitates mobilisation of political and financial support, which will be channelled through a trust fund for IYFA 2022.

The Year's visual identity – its unique “look and feel” – aspires to show artisanal fisheries and aquaculture as a unity that continuously co-evolves, fulfilling economic, environmental, social and cultural functions of the two small-scale sectors. The pictogram as seen in the illustration above is a symbolic portrait with no specific gender or ethnicity. Wavy lines depict the hair, a fish is also an eye, and the nose and mouth have a boat-like profile.

A comprehensive guide on how to use the visual identity to promote IYFA 2022 is available online for all interested governments, public institutions, intergovernmental

¹ For more information, see www.undocs.org/A/RES/72/72

² www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/en

organisations, international and national non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the private sector, etc. Furthermore, the guide allows the possibility of downloading the visual identity in the six official languages of the United Nations (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).



We encourage all partners to use the visual identity and to adapt it to other languages. FAO stands ready to support you in this. For source files or more information, please visit www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022 or contact us at IYAFA@fao.org.



Director-General of the FAO, Dr. Qu Dongyu, presents The Margarita Lizárraga Medal Award to Ms Margaret Nakato of the Katosi Women Development Trust in Uganda, during IYAFA2022 launch event in Rome, 19 November 2021.

Credit: FAO

IYAFA2022 was officially launched on World Fisheries Day with a virtual event hosted by FAO that celebrated the diversity of artisanal fisheries and aquaculture and highlighted their contributions to achieving the SDGs, and to build and strengthen partnerships at all levels. The event featured Mr. José Rogger Incio Sánchez, Minister of Production, Peru and Mr. Qu Dongyu Director-General, FAO. You can watch the recorded FAO webcast here: <https://www.fao.org/webcast/home/en/item/5716/icode/>

How to get involved in IYAFA 2022

IYAFA2022 is an opportunity to highlight the potential of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, and point to the benefits which can be gained from strengthening these sectors. To make the most of this opportunity, it is time to think creatively, join hands and start making plans now for how to make IYAFA 2022 a memorable year. Let us give small-scale fishers, fish farmers and fish workers the attention they deserve!

Here is how you can get involved:

- **Contribute a human-interest story**

One concrete way to get involved is to prepare a human-interest story to be featured as part of IYAFA2022, to share with the world a special person, group or organisation that has made a meaningful contribution to small-scale fisheries and aquaculture. Human-interest stories linked to artisanal fisheries and aquaculture may be published on the IYAFA and FAO websites and digital channels and/or be used in events, exhibitions and for pitching to global media. To contribute please use the template 'Call for Human Interest Stories' in the Communication Toolkit provided at: <https://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/home/en/> and send it to the IYAFA Secretariat **no later than 31 January 2022**.

- **List your events on the official IYAFA events page**

Activities and events are being organised around the world to celebrate IYAFA2022. Feature your activity or event on the IYAFA2022 webpage by registering at the link: <https://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/events/en/>

- **Utilise official IYAFA campaign materials**

Communication material available at: <https://www.fao.org/artisanal-fisheries-aquaculture-2022/communication-toolkit/en/> is available in the six official languages of FAO to make it easy for all partners to join the IYAFA global campaign. This includes key messages, the visual identity, an IYAFA 2022 brochure and website, a promotional video, social media cards, hashtags, videos and templates for making beautiful posters, banners and outdoor promotions and much more.

Communication products are all available in the IYAFA 2022 Asset Bank: <https://digital-assets.fao.org/home/action/broselItems?categoryId=135848&categoryTypeId=2>

- **#IYAFA2022 on social media**

Inform, educate and engage audiences with real facts. Join the #IYAFA2022 campaign by sharing through digital channels and visit the Trello Board (<https://trello.com/b/8Yg9yh9l/international-year-of-artisanal-fisheries-and-aquaculture>) for the list of official hashtags and other promotional materials.

- **Use the IYAFA2022 visual identity**

To increase the impact of the IYAFA 2022 celebrations, we ask you and all IYAFA partners to use the visual identity as much as possible in all your activities and events, also on digital platforms!

To help you get started, we have prepared two guides on how to use the IYAFA 2022 visual identity:

- The [Guidelines for the use of the IYAFA 2022 visual identity and waiver of liability](#) give detailed instructions on how to use the IYAFA logo and who may use it.
- The [visual identity guidelines for graphic designers](#) give precise instructions on branding, use of the logo for different materials, and tips for inserting the logos of partners working with you on joint activities and events.

If you need the visual identity in other languages, FAO can also work with you to create different language versions of

the visual identity. You can send a request to IYAFA@fao.org. Our graphic design team can advise you on any additional issues you may have when using the visual identity, from logo arrangements to different format requirements (size or layout).



Small-scale fisheries and aquaculture around the world: small in scale, big in value

Stay tuned: small-scale fishers and fish farmers photostory book

The FAO Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific, in collaboration with INFOFISH, is developing a photostory book that puts a spotlight on Asia as home to the majority of the world's small-scale fishers and fish farmers. It will celebrate the diversity of Asian small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, making visible their faces and circumstances. The book will also honour the numerous women and men in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture value chains who are contributing to the Asian region's food security, nutrition, livelihoods, trade, and foreign exchange reserves. The photostory book will be launched during the first quarter of 2022 in two webinars aimed at raising awareness and at celebrating IYAFA 2022, as well as to link major FAO initiatives/outcomes in small-scale fisheries and aquaculture.

By the numbers

Small-scale fisheries

- An estimated 120.4 million people were either employed along the value chain in capture fisheries in 2016 or engaged in subsistence fishing at some point in the year. Small-scale fisheries accounted for 93.9 percent of these (113 million people) (FAO, WorldFish, Duke University, forthcoming).
- More than 47 million women are fully or partially employed in capture fisheries value chains or engaged in subsistence fishing (39.1 percent of the people were employed part or full-time in capture fisheries or engaged in subsistence fishing, and 39.6 percent in part or full-time small-scale fisheries employment or subsistence fishing in 2016) (FAO, WorldFish, Duke University, forthcoming).

Aquaculture

- 20 million people are directly engaged in aquaculture worldwide (FAO, 2018). This increases to up to 50 million if indirectly engaged people are also considered (FAO and WorldFish, 2016).
- 80 percent of world aquaculture production comes from developing countries (FAO and WorldFish, 2016).

The build-up to declaring the Year

In 2014, small-scale fishers and fish workers gained considerable attention and recognition through the endorsement of the FAO Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication (SSF Guidelines) – and the subsequent efforts by FAO and others to turn words into actions. It was in fact during the discussions on the implementation of the SSF Guidelines at the 32nd Session of the FAO Committee on Fisheries (COFI) in July 2016 that a proposal for an international year on artisanal fisheries and aquaculture was put forward by the Latin American and Caribbean Group.

A commemorative year was proposed as an opportunity to further consolidate efforts to improve small-scale fisheries, and propel efforts to improve small-scale aquaculture. COFI considered that the Year would sensitise public opinion and governments on the importance of adopting specific public policies and programmes to promote activities in support of small-scale fisheries and aquaculture, especially in vulnerable rural areas constrained by poor governance and low capacity for sustainable use of aquatic resources. The United Nations General Assembly subsequently declared 2022 to be the International Year of Artisanal Fisheries and Aquaculture.

From now until the end of 2022, FAO will continue to liaise with policy-makers, development partners, other United Nations agencies, academia, NGOs, civil society organisations, the private sector, small-scale fisheries and aquaculture organisations, and the general public to raise awareness about the Year and encourage promotion and engagement ideas, activities and funding for IYAFA 2022.

Additional information on the small-scale fisheries and aquaculture sector is available from many sources, including:

- World Bank. 2012. *Hidden harvest: the global contribution of capture fisheries*. Washington, DC. <http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/515701468152718292/pdf/664690ESW0P1210120HiddenHarvest0web.pdf>
- FAO and WorldFish. 2016. Aquaculture big numbers. FAO Fisheries and Aquaculture Technical Paper No. 601. Rome. www.fao.org/3/a-i6317e.pdf.

The IYAFA Task Force is comprised of staff from across FAO. The primary function of the task force is to support the IYAFA International Steering Committee in the planning, development and implementation of the IYAFA 2022 action plan, including the establishment of regional committees, as well as mobilization of political and financial support.